

Of Interest to Every Woman

Edited by Martha Westover

KING AND QUEEN WILL SEE STEEPLECHASE

They Leave To-Day to Spend Week With Lord and Lady Derby.

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.
KING GEORGE and Queen Mary leave London today for Lancashire, to spend the remainder of the week with Lord and Lady Derby, at Knowsley Park, from whence they are to attend the grand national steeplechase on Thursday, with considerable state.

Lord Derby is one of the three so-called "Catskin" earls, the other two being the Earl of Shrewsbury and Huntington. That is to say, they are the only peers of their rank whose earldoms date from before the seventeenth century. This particular appellation, puts us, some people believe, because skin was used in lieu of crimson for the bars of fur that adorn the parliamentary and coronation robes of peers, but because prior to the seventeenth century earls were privileged to wear four bars of crimson, as the marchionesses do to-day, instead of the three bars to which earls are nowadays restricted. This was derived in the compact Franco-English of medieval times ("couarte skins," ours being the French for four, and which was naturally shortened into "skins").

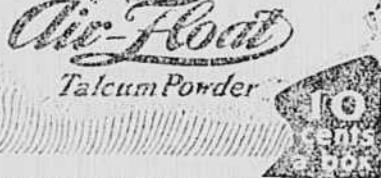
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The last might have been King of Greece. For the Greek National Assembly, after fifty years ago offered the Hellenes their first of all to King George's son-in-law, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, and who died as Duke of Saxe Coburg, and after that to the fourteenth Earl of Derby. The latter declined, preferring the existence and the prestige of great British nobles, of enormous wealth and royal ancestry, to that of the monarch of a mushroom and turbulent kingdom to the Levant. It was on the election of the Greek crown by the Greeks that it was offered to and accepted by Prince William of Denmark, who took possession of the throne as King George I.

Knowsley, which is asserted to have suggested to Thackeray the Castle of Cawdor, is surrounded by the biggest private park in England, several thousand acres in extent, dotted here and there with lakes, one of which has an area of near a hundred acres. The park is encircled by a high wall, pierced by twelve lodges, and the entire estate of Knowsley amounts to some acres. The mansion, a huge building, cannot be said to possess any architectural beauty, it is mentioned by Pevsner, but it is the residence of portions of the royal residence at the time of the Norman Conquest. The first Earl Derby is responsible for the addition of the two towers, as well as for the doubling of his accommodations, in order to enable him to entertain his son-in-law, Henry VIII, to whom he had sold nearly the greater part of his fortune, while at the entrance of the great corridor leading off the hall, there is a tablet placed by his son, the eighth Earl, which records how, when on the Restoration, both houses of Parliament had passed an act providing for the restoration to the house of Stanley family estates and property contributed to the royal cause, but by loyalty to the crown, the royal assent to the bill requisite to make it law was ungratefully refused by Charles II. (Copyright, 1914, by the Brentwood Company.)

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